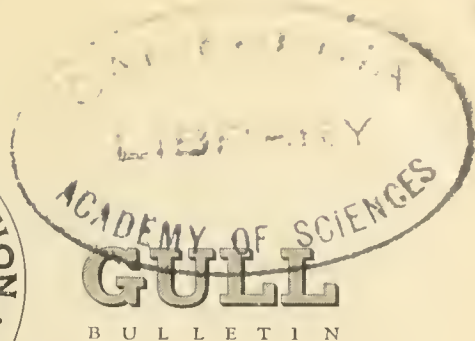


# THE

M O N T H L Y



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NUMBER 3

**MARCH MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 9th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

The feature of the evening will be an address by Mr. H. R. Noack, for many years a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, on the subject of "Aviary Birds." Mr. Noack is a recognized authority on this phase of bird life and he will have many interesting experiences to recount and ideas to advance. Visitors will be made welcome.



**MARCH FIELD TRIP** will be taken on Sunday, March 12th, to the ridges west of Fairfax, covering a distance of about eight miles. As the trails have been fairly wet, it is suggested that waterproof shoes be worn. Bring lunch. Purchase round trip tickets to Fairfax and take Sausalito ferry leaving San Francisco at 8:45 a. m. Fare 60c. Leader, Miss Hilda Bailly.



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING:** The sixty-first regular meeting of the Association was held on February 9th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Miss Ames, Recording Secretary; nine members and seventeen guests in attendance.

The feature of the evening was an address by Mr. H. S. Swarth, President of the Cooper Ornithological Club and Past Honorary President of the Association, in which were recounted various experiences during three expeditions for the purpose of observing the distribution of mammals and birds in certain districts of British Columbia,—on Vancouver Island in 1910, on the Stikine river in 1919, and on the upper Skeena river in 1921, and dealing more especially with the one last mentioned.

The Coast Range forms substantially a blank wall parallel with the coast. The climate west of these mountains is very humid, the annual precipitation reaching about one hundred inches of rain, but on the east side it is quite different and the country is relatively arid. The Stikine country receives little rain, perhaps twelve or fifteen inches a year. The fauna and flora of the two regions differ sharply. On the coast are found the Steller jay, Northwestern flicker, chestnut-backed chickadee and the junco. Fifty or sixty miles inside the mountains one encounters the slate-colored junco, Eastern robin, redstart, red-eyed vireo, nighthawk and yellow-shafted flicker. On the coast side of the range, the Sitka spruce predominates, with other conifers, while inland the quaking aspen holds forth in the lower reaches, with conifers in the mountains.

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The valley of the Skeena river is broader than that of the Stikine and the rain penetrates further inland, furnishing a drizzle all summer. Headquarters were established at Hazelton, on the Grand Trunk Pacific R. R., some two hundred miles up the river from Prince Rupert, surrounded on all sides by the poplar woods. Here were found ruffed grouse, Gambel sparrow, mountain bluebirds, Eastern chickadees; rusty blackbirds nested in scattered pairs in the muskeg, probably in the black spruces, but the nests could not be located. Snowshoe rabbits swarmed through the woods, enjoying one of their periodical seasons of prosperity, but they were commencing to die off, as is their fate.

Camp was made for three weeks on Nine-mile Mountain, about twenty miles from Hazelton, where one was tormented throughout the day by insects while the nights were made hideous by never ending porcupine raids. Conspicuous birds on the mountain were the golden-crowned sparrows, pipits, fox sparrows, hermit thrushes, kinglets and crossbills. A striking feature was furnished by the grouse family hereabouts. In the poplars were the ruffed grouse; in the spruce woods, the Franklin grouse, or "fool hen," with the blue grouse a little higher up. Highest of all, nested the ptarmigan, in three species, willow, rock and white-tailed. Whistling marmots abounded, and were preyed upon by the golden eagles.

The Indians along the Skeena river offered interesting objects for study. The Klinguts on the coast are fishermen, savage and warlike; in the interior, the Taltaans are hunters, trappers and packers. These latter could load a horse and throw a diamond hitch, all in ninety seconds, as a regular performance. They were greatly interested to learn of the style of saddles and harness in California, and expressed great surprise that there were no birds here, so that Mr. Swarth had to travel all the way to their country to find any. The Indian ladies were evidently in close touch with the tendencies of the day, for laundry rates were absolutely stable at two bits per article, large, small, or medium.

Mr. Swarth concluded his very entertaining lecture with references to a trip into southern British Columbia, during which he encountered Major Allan Brooks at Okanagan, and following an interesting discussion, the meeting adjourned.



At a special meeting of the Board of Directors on the 12th inst., the nomination of Mr. Chase Littlejohn for Honorary membership was unanimously approved, and Mr. Charles More, of San Francisco, was elected to membership in the Association.



### BIRD TRAPPING AND BANDING

The banding of birds, as a means of securing information as to their habits, is receiving much attention at the present time and the Bureau of Biological Survey is soliciting the co-operation of competent observers in the furtherance of this work. For many years, banding was feasible only with nestlings or with occasional captures of adult birds. The development of traps for the capture and eradication of English sparrows has been accompanied by the capture of many native birds with the attendant suggestion that here was an opportunity for extending our knowledge in a very wide field by banding the native species before releasing them. A notable example of the results of this suggestion is afforded by the work of Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin on his farms near Cleveland, Ohio, and at Thomasville, Georgia, as described by him in Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York, 1919.

It is not too much to say that at this time the bird circles of this country are all astir with the trapping and banding proposition. Scientists want the data; bird lovers and bird haters want to see the English sparrow eradicated;

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manufacturers want to sell traps to anyone who has the price. Societies for this purpose have been formed in the East, and one is so enthusiastic that it has apparently been circularizing the country, urging membership in banding organizations. The writer has received five or six circulars extolling the merits of one make of trap.

The writer holds no brief for the English sparrow nor against intelligent trapping, but in all the literature he has recently received, there is not one word of caution or of intimation as to the *dangers* attending the use of what is known as the "Government Trap."

Trapping is not a diversion nor a spasmodic pastime, but a BUSINESS, with well defined duties and responsibilities. A bird trap must not be used like a mouse trap, to be baited and set and left to itself until one happens to think of it again. Bird traps *should* be open to *constant* observation and *must* be visited regularly and frequently, BECAUSE

1. Birds of certain species will not submit to the trap but will kill themselves in efforts to escape.
2. Birds that do not object to the confinement may nevertheless quarrel and injure or kill each other.
3. Birds that you wish to protect and save may be killed by other birds or by rats trapped with them.
4. Birds are liable to be killed by exposure in traps overnight.

The irony of the situation lies in the fact that these things will in all probability happen to those very birds you are cherishing and doing everything in your power to attract, retain and protect! Meanwhile, the English sparrows will be cleaning up the bait *outside* the trap, and laughing at your efforts.

Trap and band, if you are competent and willing and able to do it properly. Catch English sparrows, if you can, without injuring or driving away your native bird friends, but do not, yourself, nor permit anyone else to, bring terror or destruction to those birds that our Association is pledged to protect.

Finally, it must be remembered that, before any trapping operations are attempted, permits must be obtained from the State and Federal authorities, and arrangements made with the local authorities where trapping is forbidden by local ordinance.

A. S. KIBBE.



## POCKET COMPASSES

The government is offering for sale its surplus stock of several thousand pocket compasses, of watch type, such as every out-door wanderer should carry in unfamiliar country, when the sun or stars are liable to be obscured.

Both forms have brass cases, bronze-finished; floating dials, with North, South, East and West points illuminated; slide to raise or release dial; all are new, perfect, and unused.

Smaller form, one inch and a half in diameter, open face, 50c.

Larger form, two inches in diameter, hunting case with slot and mirror in cover for sighting without lowering instrument from eye, \$1.00.

Remit by money order, specifying kind and quantity desired, to Engineer Supply Officer, U. S. Army, General Reserve Depot, Columbus, Ohio. Prompt action is necessary, as this notice is nearly one month old and the supply will doubtless be exhausted very soon.



## RECENT LOCAL NOTES

February 11. Five rhinoceros auklets were found on the beach at Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, victims of the recent heavy storm.



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February 26. Mr. C. R. Thomas reported a spotted sandpiper at Lake Merritt, Oakland.

March 5. Mr. C. R. Thomas reported several ring-necked ducks, male and female, on the most northerly of the Chain-of-Lakes in Golden Gate Park.

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FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, the 12th, to San Andreas Lake. The party went by motor bus from San Francisco, alighting at Easton Drive. In the first two blocks from the main highway more species of bird were seen than in any like distance during the remainder of the trip. On the way up the canyon which leads to the top of the ridge, we saw, at first, one or two band-tailed pigeons, then small groups, and, finally, all united into one big flock of at least one hundred and fifty birds. This was the big event of the day.

It was noon when we reached the top of the ridge and had lunch in an open field, with flocks of horned larks for company. After lunch, Mr. Kibbe laid out upon the grass a *Cérorhynca monocerata*, found dead on the beach at Golden Gate Park the day before, as a result of the heavy storm. We then passed around the bier. A few of the party then returned by the way we had come and the rest finished the hike of nine miles as planned.

Last year we turned south from this point and skirted Crystal Springs Lake. This year, we turned north and traversed the flume to the dam at San Andreas Lake. This is a beautiful spot, arranged by the water company for the convenience of hikers and automobile parties. Flowers had not yet fairly started to come out but later on it will be a wonderful place for those who seek flowers as well as birds. The return trip was made along the highway above the lake, over the ridge and back down to the highway at Uncle Tom's Cabin. Water birds were not numerous on the lake. At the very end of the walk, just at dusk, three birds were added to the list, and it seemed almost as if they were just waiting around to be counted. They were the black-crowned night heron, the bi-colored red-winged blackbird, and at the station where we took the trolley car, a Say phoebe.

Water birds seen on the bay and during the walk, were: Western and eared grebes, glaucous-winged, Western, California and Bonaparte gulls; cormorant, scaup, white-winged and surf scoter and ruddy duck; black-crowned night heron, coot and sandpipers. Land birds were: Band-tailed pigeon, sharp-shinned, Cooper, Western red-tailed and sparrow hawks; California woodpecker, red-shafted flicker, Anna hummer. Say and black phoebes; horned lark, California jay, bi-colored red-wing. Brewer blackbird and meadowlark; California purple finch, linnet, green-backed goldfinch, Nuttall and golden-crowned sparrows; junco, song sparrow, San Francisco and California towhees; Audubon and Townsend warblers, pipit and California thrasher; Vigors wren, plain titmouse, chickadee, bush-tit and wren-tit; ruby-crowned kinglet, dwarf hermit thrush, Western robin and varied thrush. Fifty-two species in all.

Members present were Mesdemoiselles Ames, Cheesman, Flynn, Fritts, King and Sterne; Mesdames Kelly, Kibbe, Reygadas and Warrington; Messrs. Kibbe and Thomas. As guests, Mesdemoiselles Calhoun, Moffitt, Nienberg, Pringle and H. E. Roe. Twelve members and five guests.

C. R. THOMAS.

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## AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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